

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and computer program products for transparently redirecting a request for content such that a client system is unaware of the redirection. A client requests content through a front-end server that provides a single point of access for content stored on one or more back-end servers. The single point of access makes it so the client does not know and does not care which particular back-end server stores the requested content. When a back-end server provides a redirect response for content that the back-end server does not store, the front-end server receives the redirect response and reissues the request to a server identified in the redirect response. A front-end server indicator is added to requests so that the back-end server knows the request is from a front-end server. This allows the back-end server to provide a list of servers in the redirect response without causing errors in clients making direct requests to back-end servers when the clients are unable to process a list of servers contained in a redirect response.

G:\DATA\PAT\WORDPAT\13768.169.doc